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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,153	10/15/2001	Shigeki Enoki	011375	9280

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ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

SHAAWAT, MUSSA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,153

Applicant(s)

ENOKI ET AL.

Examiner

Mussa A. Shaawat

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-6, and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Amendment received on November 07, 2006. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 11, have been amended. Claims 2-3, 7 and 12-15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-11 are pending examination.
2. Applicant's amendment, filed on November 07, 2006, regarding the 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph rejection have been fully considered and is persuasive; therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph rejection has been withdrawn.
3. With respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections, it is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last Office Action mailed on August 07, 2006. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and the old rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 148 USPQ 459, that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or unobviousness.

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6. Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers et al. US Patent No. (5,978,774) in view of Houvener et al. US Patent No. (6,016,480) as discussed in the previous office action.

Further: Rogers discloses means for applying a correction to said queried transaction data (i.e. refund or return of merchandise) (see col.5 lines 4-12); means for transmitting said corrected transaction data to said store server as transaction data relating to a new transaction that occurred at their own POS terminal (i.e. updating store server), see col.5 line 66-col.6 line 6; wherein said store server comprises means for storing transaction data transmitted from each POS terminal (see col.2 lines 33-38 and col.4 lines 30-35); means for receiving and executing a transaction cancel instruction from a POS terminal other than the POS terminal at which said transaction occurred , and means for transferring said transaction cancel instruction to said POS terminal at which said transaction occurred (see col.4 lines 30-45).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Applicant argues in substance that:

(A) Rogers does not disclose a "one POS (other than a POS at which transaction occurred) transmitting a transaction cancel instruction to the server, which then transmits the request to the POS at which the transaction did occur, as in the claimed invention".

Response: Rogers teaches POS terminals transmitting data to database (i.e. store server) as transaction occurs see col.2 lines 60-67. Rogers further teaches means for

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querying the local database and requesting a transaction data relating to a transaction that occurred at another POS terminal with means for instructing said store server to cancel the transaction that occurred at another POS terminal see (col.4 lines 5-12, therefore, Rogers meets the scope of the claimed limitation, "one POS (other than the POS at which the transaction occurred) may cancel a transaction performed at another POS terminal".

Conclusion

8. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP ' 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

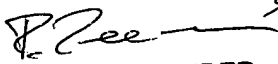
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mussa A. Shaawat whose telephone number is 571-272-2945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am-5:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Florian Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mussa Shaawat
Patent Examiner
February 14, 2007

 3/2/07
F. RYAN ZEENDER
PRIMARY EXAMINER